

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 7, and 10-11 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface light source device of side light type comprising:
a guide plate having a minor face to provide an incidence end face and two major faces to provide an emission face and a back face; and
a primary light source providing primary light to the guide plate through the incidence end face, wherein

said emission face is provided with a plurality of light scattering elements distributed according to a predetermined pattern such that a covering density of said light scattering elements is greater at either end of said incidence end face than at any other point therebetween,

said emission face having a rough area formed on and around said light scattering elements such that the light scattering elements and an area surrounding the light scattering elements are roughened, and

said rough area having a roughness degree which is less than that of said light scattering elements.

2. (Original) A surface light source device of side light type in accordance with claim 1, wherein said rough area has roughness falling in a range from 0.02 to 0.25 μm in arithmetic mean roughness.

3. (Previously Presented) A surface light source device of side light type in accordance with claim 1, wherein said light scattering elements have sizes such that the light scattering elements are hard to be visible to the naked eye.

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display including a liquid crystal display panel

and a surface light source device of side light type for backlighting the liquid crystal display panel, said surface light source device comprising:

a guide plate having a minor face to provide an incidence end face and two major faces to provide an emission face and a back face; and

a primary light source providing primary light to the guide plate through the incidence end face, wherein

said emission face is provided with a plurality of light scattering elements distributed according to a predetermined pattern such that a covering density of said light scattering elements is greater at either end of said incidence end face than at any other point therebetween,

said emission face having a rough area formed on and around said light scattering elements such that the light scattering elements and an area surrounding the light scattering elements are roughened, and

said rough area having a roughness degree which is less than that of said light scattering elements.

5. (Original) A liquid crystal display in accordance with claim 4, wherein said rough area has roughness falling in a range from 0.02 to 0.25 μm in arithmetic mean roughness.

6. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display in accordance with claim 4, wherein said light scattering elements have sizes such that the light scattering elements are hard to be visible to the naked eye.

7. (Currently Amended) A guide plate of a surface light source device of side light type, comprising:

a minor face to provide an incidence end face for introducing light into the guide plate; and

two major faces to provide an emission face for emitting light and a back face opposite said emission face, wherein

said emission face is provided with a plurality of light scattering elements distributed according to a predetermined pattern such that a covering density of said light scattering elements is greater at either end of said incidence end face than at any other point therebetween,

said emission face having a rough area formed on and around said light scattering

elements such that the light scattering elements and an area surrounding the light scattering elements are roughened, and

said rough area having a roughness degree which is less than that of said light scattering elements.

8. (Original) A guide plate in accordance with claim 7, wherein said rough area has roughness falling in a range from 0.02 to 0.25 μm in arithmetic mean roughness.

9. (Previously Presented) A guide plate in accordance with claim 7, wherein said light scattering elements have sizes such that the light scattering elements are hard to be visible to the naked eye.

10. (Currently Amended) A surface light source device of side light type comprising:

a guide plate having a minor face to provide an incidence end face and two major faces to provide an emission face and a back face; and

a primary light source providing primary light to the guide plate through the incidence end face, wherein

said emission face is formed in a plane and has a plurality of light scattering elements distributed according to a predetermined pattern such that a covering density of said light scattering elements is greater at either end of said incidence end face than at any other point therebetween, the light scattering elements being formed as projections out the plane of the emission face,

said emission face having a rough area formed on and around said light scattering elements such that the light scattering elements and an area surrounding the light scattering elements are roughened and the projections out of the plane of the emission face have undulations, and

said rough area having a roughness degree which is less than that of said light scattering elements.

11. (Currently Amended) A surface light source device of side light type comprising:

a guide plate having a minor face to provide an incidence end face and two major faces to provide an emission face and a back face; and

a primary light source providing primary light to the guide plate through the incidence end face, wherein

said emission face is provided with a plurality of column-shaped light scattering elements distributed according to a predetermined pattern such that a covering density of said light scattering elements is greater at either end of said incidence end face than at any other point therebetween,

said emission face having a rough area formed on and around said light scattering elements such that the light scattering elements and an area surrounding the light scattering elements are roughened, and

said rough area having a roughness degree which is less than that of said light scattering elements.